

## Kids Online Safety & Privacy Act

Unofficial redline comparison of:

Title I – KOSA		
1.	<b>S.1409 Kids Online Safety Act, 2 May 2023</b> <i>plus Filter Bubble Transparency Act</i> <i>as added 27 July 2023</i>	Black, unadorned text.
<i>to</i>		
2.	<b>Senate Commerce Committee amendments</b> <i>via markup on 27 July 2023</i>	Additions are reflected in blue. <del>Deletions are reflected in crossed-out red.</del>
<i>to</i>		
3.	<b>Updated draft - Sens. Blackburn &amp; Blumenthal</b> <i>as released 15 February 2024</i>	Additions are reflected in purple. <del>Deletions are reflected in crossed-out orange</del>
<i>to</i>		
4.	<b>Senator Schumer amendment in the nature of a substitute to S.2073</b> <i>23 July 2024</i>	Additions are reflected in green. Deletions are reflected in highlighted yellow.

Title II – COPPA 2.0		
1.	<b>Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act</b> <i>Existing statutory text, 15 U.S.C. 91, et seq.</i>	Black, unadorned text.
<i>to</i>		
2.	<b>S.1418 Children and Teens’ Online Privacy Protection Act (“COPPA 2.0”)</b> <i>updated draft released 15 February 2024</i>	Additions are reflected in blue. <del>Deletions are reflected in crossed-out red.</del>
<i>to</i>		
3.	<b>Senator Schumer amendment in the nature of a substitute to S.2073</b> <i>23 July 2024</i>	Additions are reflected in green. Deletions are reflected in highlighted yellow.

Corrections? Contact Cobun Zweifel-Keegan, D.C. Managing Director, IAPP [cobun@iapp.org](mailto:cobun@iapp.org)

Thanks to IAPP’s Rina Mehana for tracking changes, and to FPF for prior drafts.

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

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# TITLE I—KEEPING KIDS SAFE ONLINE

## Subtitle A—Kids Online Safety

### SEC. 101 DEFINITIONS.

In this ~~title~~ subtitle:

(1) CHILD.—The term “child” means an individual who is under the age of 13.

(2) COMPULSIVE USAGE.—The term “compulsive usage” means any response stimulated by external factors that causes an individual to engage in repetitive behavior reasonably likely to cause psychological distress, ~~loss of control, anxiety, or depression, or harmful stress responses.~~

(3) COVERED PLATFORM.—

(A) IN GENERAL. — The term “covered platform” means an ~~online platform social media service, social network,~~ online video game ~~(including educational games),~~ messaging application, ~~or video streaming service, or an online platform~~ that connects to the internet and that is used, or is reasonably likely to be used, by a minor.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.— The term “covered platform” does not include—

(i) an entity acting in its capacity ~~as a provider~~ of—

(I) a common carrier service subject to the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) and all Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto;

(II) a broadband internet access service (as such term is defined for purposes of section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation)

(III) an email service; ~~or~~

(IV) a teleconferencing or video conferencing service that allows reception and transmission of audio and video signal for real-time communication, provided that—

(aa) ~~the service~~ is not an online platform, including a social media service or social network; and

(bb) the real-time communication is initiated by using a unique link or identifier to facilitate access; or

(V) a wireless messaging service, including such a service provided through short messaging service or multimedia messaging service protocols, that is not a component of, or linked to, an online platform, and where the predominant or exclusive function of the service is direct messaging consisting of the transmission of text, photos, or videos that are sent ~~between devices~~ by electronic means, where messages are transmitted from the sender to a recipient, and are not posted within an online platform or publicly ~~shared only between the sender and the recipient, are only visible to the sender and the recipient, and are not posted publicly; provided through the short messaging service or multimedia messaging service protocols;~~

(ii) an organization not organized to carry on business for its own profit or that of its members;

(iii) any public or private preschool, elementary, or secondary school, or any institution of vocational, professional, or higher education; ~~or~~

(iv) a library (as defined in section 213(1) of the Library Services and Technology Act (20 U.S.C. 9122(1)));

(v) a news or sports ~~news and~~ coverage website or app where—

(I) the inclusion of video content on the website or app is related to the website or app's own gathering, reporting, or publishing of news content or sports ~~news and~~ coverage; and

(II) the website or app is not otherwise an online platform; ~~or~~

(vi) a product or service that primarily functions as business-to-business software, a cloud storage, file sharing, or file collaboration service, provided that the product or service is not an online platform;

(vii) a virtual private network or similar service that exists solely to route internet traffic between locations.

(4) DESIGN FEATURE—The term “design feature” means any feature or component of a covered platform that will encourage or increase the frequency, time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform. Design features include but are not limited to—

- (A) infinite scrolling or auto play;
- (B) rewards for time spent on the platform;
- (C) notifications;
- (D) personalized recommendation systems;

- (E) in-game purchases; or
- (F) appearance altering filters.

(5)(4) GEOLOCATION.— The term “geolocation” means information sufficient to identify street name and name of a city or town has the meaning given the term “geolocation information” in section 1302 of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501), as added by section 201(a).

(6)(5) INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC ADVERTISING TO MINORS—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “individual specific advertising to minors” means advertising or any other effort to market a product or service that is directed to a specific minor or a device that is linked or reasonably linkable to a minor based on—

(i) based on the personal data of—

(I) the personal data of the minor—

(aa) the minor; or

(II) (bb) a group of minors who are similar in sex, age, income level, race, or ethnicity to the specific minor to whom the product or service is marketed;

(ii) (II) psychological profiling of a minor or group of minors; or

(iii) (III) a unique identifier of the device; or

(ii) as a result of use by the minor, access by any device of the minor, or use by a group of minors who are similar to the specific minor, of more than a single—

(I) website;

(II) online service;

(III) online application;

(IV) mobile application; or

(V) connected device

(B) EXCLUSIONS—The term “individual specific advertising to minors” shall not include—

(i) advertising or marketing to an individual or the device of an individual in response to the individual’s specific request for information or feedback, such as a minor’s current search query;

(ii) contextual advertising, such as when an advertisement is displayed based on the content of the covered platform on which the advertisement appears and does not vary based on personal information data related to the viewer;

(iii) processing personal information data solely for measuring or reporting advertising or content performance, reach, or frequency, including independent measurement;

~~(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit a covered platform with actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that knows an individual is under the age of 17 from delivering advertising or marketing that is age appropriate for the individual involved and intended for a child or teen audience (as applicable), so long as the covered platform does not use any personal data other than whether the user is under the age of 17 to deliver such advertising or marketing.~~

~~(7)(6)~~ KNOW OR KNOWS.—The term “know” or “knows” means to have actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances.

~~(7)(8)(7)~~ MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER.—The term “mental health disorder” has the meaning given to the term “mental disorder” in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders, 5th Edition (or the most current successor edition).

~~(9) MICROTRANSACTION.—~~

~~(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “microtransaction” means a purchase made in an online video game (including a purchase made using a virtual currency that is purchasable or redeemable using cash or credit or that is included as part of a paid subscription service).~~

~~(B) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes a purchase involving surprise mechanics, new characters, or in-game items.~~

~~(C) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include—~~

~~(i) a purchase made in an online video game using a virtual currency that is earned through gameplay and is not otherwise purchasable or redeemable using cash or credit or included as part of a paid subscription service; or~~

~~(ii) a purchase of additional levels within the game or an overall expansion of the game.~~

~~(10)(8)~~ MINOR.—The term “minor” means an individual who is under the age of 17.

(11)(9) ONLINE PLATFORM.—The term “online platform” means any public-facing website, online service, online application, or mobile application that predominantly provides a community forum for user generated content, such as sharing videos, images, games, audio files, or other content, including sharing videos, images, games, audio files, or other content, including a social media service, social network, or virtual reality environment.

(12)(10) ONLINE VIDEO GAME— The term “online video game” means a video game, including an educational video game, that connects to the internet and that—

(A) allows a user to—

(A) (i) create and upload content other than content that is incidental to gameplay, such as character or level designs created by the user, preselected phrases, or short interactions with other users;

(B) (ii) engage in microtransactions within the game; or

(C) (iii) communicate with other users; or

~~(B) incorporates minor-specific individual-specific advertising to minors.~~

(13)(11) PARENT.—The term “parent” has the meaning given that term in section 1302 of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 20 6501). includes—

(A) a natural parent;

(B) a legal guardian; or

~~(C) An individual with legal custody over a minor.~~

(14)(12) PERSONAL DATA.—The term “personal data” has the same meaning as the term “personal information” as defined in section 1302 of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 25 6501). ~~means information that identifies or is linked or reasonably linkable to a particular minor, including a consumer device identifier that is linked or reasonably linkable to a minor.~~

(15)(13) PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM—The term “personalized recommendation system” means a fully or partially automated system used to suggest, promote, or rank content, including other users, hashtags, or posts, information based on the personal data of users. A recommendation system that suggests, promotes, or ranks content based solely on the user’s language, city or town, or age shall not be considered a personalized recommendation system.

(16)(14) SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE.—The term “sexual exploitation and abuse” means any of the following:



- (A) Coercion and enticement, as described in section 2422 of title 18, United States Code.
- (B) Child sexual abuse material, as described in sections 2251, 2252, 2252A, and 2260 of title 18, United States Code.
- (C) Trafficking for the production of images, as described in section 2251A of title 18, United States Code.
- (D) Sex trafficking of children, as described in section 1591 of title 18, United States Code.

(17) USER.—The term “user” means, with respect to a covered platform, an individual who registers an account or creates a profile on the covered platform.

~~(11) TARGETED ADVERTISING.—~~

- ~~(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “targeted advertising” means displaying an advertisement to a consumer where the advertisement is selected based on personal data about the individual to predict the individual’s preferences and interests.~~
- ~~(B) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include—~~
  - ~~(i) —advertising or marketing directed to an individual in response to the individual’s request for information or express selection of a product or service;~~
  - ~~(ii) —contextual advertising where an advertisement is displayed to an individual based on the content in which the advertisement appears and does not vary based on who the individual is; or~~
  - ~~(iii) —processing personal data solely to measure or report advertising performance, reach, or frequency.~~

## SEC. 102 DUTY OF CARE.

(a) PREVENTION OF HARM TO MINORS—A covered platform shall exercise reasonable care ~~take reasonable measures in the creation and implementation of any design and operation of any product, service, or feature~~ ~~act in the best interests of a user that the covered platform knows is used by minors or reasonably should know is a minor by taking reasonable measures in its design and operation of products and services~~ to prevent and mitigate the following harms to minors—

(1) Consistent with evidence-informed medical information, the following mental health disorders: anxiety, depression, eating disorders, substance use disorders, and suicidal behaviors.

(2) Patterns of use that indicate or encourage addiction-like behaviors by minors.

(3) Physical violence, online bullying, and harassment of the minor.

(4) Sexual exploitation and abuse of minors.

(5) Promotion and marketing of narcotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol.

(6) Predatory, unfair, or deceptive marketing practices, or other financial harms.

(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to require a covered platform to prevent or preclude any minor from—

(1) ~~any minor from~~ deliberately and independently searching for, or specifically requesting, content; or

(2) ~~the covered platform or individuals on the platform from providing~~ ~~accessing~~ resources and information regarding ~~for~~ the prevention or mitigation of the harms described in subsection (a), ~~of suicidal behaviors, substance use, and other harms, including evidence-informed information and clinical resources.~~

## SEC. 103 SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORS.

### (a) SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORS.—

(1) SAFEGUARDS.—A covered platform shall provide a user or visitor ~~an individual~~ that the covered platform knows ~~or reasonably should know~~ is a minor with readily-accessible and easy-to-use safeguards to, as applicable—

(A) limit the ability of other users or visitors ~~individuals~~ to communicate with the minor;

(B) prevent other users or visitors, whether registered or not, from viewing the minor's personal data collected by or shared on the covered platform, in particular restricting public access to personal data;

(C) limit design features that encourage or increase the frequency, ~~sustain, or extend use of the covered platform by the minor, such as automatic playing of media, rewards for~~ time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform, such as infinite scrolling, auto playing, rewards for time spent on the platform, notifications, and other design features that result in compulsive usage of the covered platform by the minor;

(D) control personalized recommendation systems, including the ability for a minor to have at least 1 of the following options ~~right to~~—

(i) opt out of such personalized recommendation systems, while still allowing the display of content based on a chronological format; or

(ii) limit types or categories of recommendations from such systems; and

(E) restrict the sharing of the geolocation of the minor ~~to other users on the platform~~ and provide notice regarding the tracking of the minor's geolocation.

(2) OPTIONS.—A covered platform shall provide a user ~~individual~~ that the covered platform knows ~~or reasonably should know~~ is a minor with a readily-accessible and easy-to-use options to—

(A) delete the minor's account and delete any personal data collected from, or shared by, the minor on the covered platform;

~~(B)~~ limit the amount of time spent by the minor on the covered platform.

(3) DEFAULT SAFEGUARD SETTINGS FOR MINORS.—A covered platform shall provide that, in the case of a user ~~or visitor~~ that the platform knows ~~or reasonably should know~~ is a minor, the default setting for any safeguard described under paragraph (1) shall be the option available on the platform that provides the most protective level of control that is offered by the platform over privacy and safety for that user ~~or visitor~~.

(b) PARENTAL TOOLS.—

(1) TOOLS.—A covered platform shall provide readily-accessible and easy-to-use settings for parents to support ~~a user~~ ~~an individual~~ that the covered platform knows ~~or reasonably should know~~ is a minor with respect to the ~~user's~~ ~~individual's~~ use of the ~~covered~~ platform.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The parental tools provided by a covered platform shall include—

(A) the ability to manage a minor's privacy and account settings, including the safeguards ~~and options~~ established under subsection (a), in a manner that allows parents to—

(i) view the privacy and account settings; and

(ii) in the case of a user that the platform knows ~~or reasonably should know~~ is a child, change and control the privacy and account settings;

(B) the ability to restrict purchases and financial transactions by the minor, where applicable; and

(C) the ability to view metrics of total time spent on the ~~covered~~ platform ~~and restrict time spent on the covered platform by the minor~~.

(3) NOTICE TO MINORS.—A covered platform shall provide clear and conspicuous notice to ~~a user~~ ~~an individual that the covered platform knows~~ ~~or reasonably should know is a minor~~ when ~~the~~ tools described in this subsection are in effect and what settings or controls have been applied.

(4) DEFAULT TOOLS.—A covered platform shall provide that, in the case of a user that the platform knows ~~or reasonably should know~~ is a child, the tools

required under paragraph (1) ~~described in this subsection~~ shall be enabled by default.

(5) APPLICATION TO EXISTING ACCOUNTS.—If, prior to the effective date of this subsection, a covered platform provided a parent of a user that the platform knows is a child with notice and the ability to enable the parental tools described under this subsection in a manner that would otherwise comply with this subsection, and the parent opted out of enabling such tools, the covered platform is not required to enable such tools with respect to such user by default when this subsection takes effect.

(c) REPORTING MECHANISM.—

(1) REPORTS SUBMITTED BY PARENTS, MINORS, AND SCHOOLS.—A covered platform shall provide—

(A) a readily-accessible and easy-to-use means to submit reports to the covered platform of harms to a minor;

(B) an electronic point of contact specific to matters involving harms to a minor; and

(C) confirmation of the receipt of such a report and, within the applicable time period described in paragraph (2), a substantive response to the individual that submitted the report ~~means to track a submitted report.~~

(2) TIMING.—A covered platform shall establish an internal process to receive and substantively respond to reports in a reasonable and timely manner, but in no case later than—

(A) 7 10 days after the receipt of a report, if, for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged more than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States;

(B) 21 days after the receipt of a report, if, for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged less than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States; and

(C) notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), if the report involves an imminent threat to the safety of a minor, as promptly as needed to address the reported threat to safety.

(d) ADVERTISING OF ILLEGAL PRODUCTS.—A covered platform shall not facilitate the advertising of narcotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol to an individual that the covered platform knows or reasonably should know is a minor.

(e) RULES OF APPLICATION.—

(1) ACCESSIBILITY.—With respect to safeguards and parental ~~controls~~ tools described under subsections (a) and (b), a covered platform shall provide—

(A) information and control options in a clear and conspicuous manner that takes into consideration the differing ages, capacities, and developmental needs of the minors most likely to access the covered platform and does not encourage minors or parents to weaken or disable safeguards or parental ~~controls~~ tools;

(B) readily-accessible and easy-to-use controls to enable or disable safeguards or parental ~~controls~~ tools, as appropriate; and

(C) information and control options in the same language, form, and manner as the covered platform provides the product or service used by minors and their parents.

(2) DARK PATTERNS PROHIBITION.— It shall be unlawful for any covered platform to design, modify, or manipulate a user interface of a covered platform with the purpose or substantial effect of subverting or impairing user autonomy, decision-making, or choice with respect to ~~in order to weaken or disable~~ safeguards or parental ~~controls~~ tools required under this section.

(3) TIMING CONSIDERATIONS.—

(A) NO INTERRUPTION TO GAMEPLAY.— Subsections (a)(1)(C) and (b)(3) shall not require an online video game to interrupt the natural sequence of game play, such as progressing through game levels or finishing a competition.

(B) APPLICATION OF CHANGES TO OFFLINE DEVICES OR ACCOUNTS.—If a user's device or user account does not have access to the internet at the time of a change to parental tools, a covered platform shall apply changes the next time the device or user is connected to the internet.

(4)(3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(A) prevent a covered platform from taking reasonable measures to—

(i) block, detect, or prevent the distribution of unlawful, obscene, or other harmful material to minors as described in section 102(a); or

(ii) block or filter spam, prevent criminal activity, or protect the security of a platform or service; ~~or~~

(B) require the disclosure of a minor's browsing behavior, search history, messages, contact list, or other content or metadata of their communications.

(C) prevent a covered platform from using a personalized recommendation system to display content to a minor if the system only uses information on—

(i) the language spoken by the minor;

(ii) the city the minor is located in; or

(iii) the minor's age; or

(D) prevent an online video game from disclosing a username or other user identification for the purpose of competitive gameplay or to allow for the reporting of users.

~~(D) prohibit a covered platform from integrating its products or service with controls from third-party systems, including operating systems or gaming consoles, to meet the requirements imposed under subsections (a) and (b) relating to safeguards for minors and tool for parents, provided that—~~

~~(i) the controls meet such requirements and~~

~~(ii) the minor or parent is provided sufficient notice of the integration and use of the controls.~~

(f) DEVICE OR CONSOLE CONTROLS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a covered platform from integrating its products or service with, or duplicate controls or tools provided by, third-party systems, including operating systems or gaming consoles, to meet the requirements imposed under subsections (a) and (b) relating to safeguards for minors and parental tools, provided that—

(A) the controls or tools meet such requirements; and

(B) the minor or parent is provided sufficient notice of the integration and use of the parental tools.

(2) PRESERVATION OF PROTECTIONS.—In the event of a conflict between the controls or tools of a third-party system, including operating systems or gaming consoles, and a covered platform, the covered platform is not required to override the controls or tools of a third-party system if it would undermine the protections for minors from the safeguards or parental tools imposed under subsections (a) and (b).



## SEC. 104. DISCLOSURE.

(a) NOTICE.—

(1) REGISTRATION OR PURCHASE.—Prior to registration or purchase of a covered platform by an individual that the platform knows ~~or reasonably should know~~ is a minor, the platform shall provide clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand—

(A) notice of the policies and practices of the covered platform with respect to ~~personal data and~~ safeguards for minors ~~required under section 103~~;

(B) information about how to access the safeguards and parental tools required under section 103; and

(C) notice about whether the covered platform ~~uses or makes available to minors a product, service, or design feature, including any personalized recommendation systems, used by the platform, pose any uses or makes available to minors a product, service, or feature, including any personalized recommendation system, that poses any~~ ~~that poses any~~ heightened risks of harms to minors.

(2) PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

(A) NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT.— In the case of an individual that a covered platform knows ~~or reasonably should know~~ is a child, the platform shall additionally provide information about the parental tools and safeguards required under section 103 to a parent of the child and obtain verifiable ~~parental~~ consent (as defined in section 1302(9) of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501(9))) ~~express affirmative acknowledgment~~ from the parent prior to the initial use of the covered platform by the child.

(B) REASONABLE EFFORT.—A covered platform shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirement described in subparagraph (A) if the covered platform ~~is in compliance with the requirements of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.)~~ to use reasonable efforts ~~has undertaken a reasonable effort~~ (taking into consideration available technology) to ~~provide a parent with ensure a parent receives~~ the information described in ~~such~~ subparagraph (A) and to obtain verifiable ~~parental~~ consent as required ~~a parent's express affirmative acknowledgment~~.

(3) CONSOLIDATED NOTICES.—For purposes of this Act subtitle, a covered platform may consolidate the process for providing information under this subsection and (if applicable) obtaining verifiable parental consent acknowledgement or the consent of the minor involved (as applicable) as required under this subsection with its obligations to provide relevant notice and obtain verifiable consent for data privacy practices, the content of the notice meets the requirement of this subsection under the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501 et. seq).

(4) RULEMAKING GUIDANCE—The Federal Trade Commission may issue guidance to assist covered platforms in complying with the specific notice requirements of this subsection. rules pursuant to section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to establish templates or models of short form notices that include the minimum level of information and labels necessary for the disclosures required under paragraph (1)

(b) PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM.—A covered platform that operates a personalized recommendation system shall set out in its terms and conditions, in a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand manner—

(1) an overview of how such those personalized recommendation systems is are used by the covered platform to provide information to users of the platform who are minors, including how such systems use the personal data of minors; and

(2) information about options for minors or their parents to opt out of or control the personalized recommendation system (as applicable). to control personalized recommendation systems that use a minor's personal data (including by opting out of such systems)

(c) ADVERTISING AND MARKETING INFORMATION AND LABELS.—

(1) INFORMATION AND LABELS.—A covered platform that facilitates advertising aimed at users that the platform knows or reasonably should know are minors shall provide clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand information and labels and information, which can be provided through a link to another web page or disclosure, to minors on advertisements regarding—

(A) the name of the product, service, or brand and the subject matter of an advertisement; and

(B) if the covered platform engages in individual specific advertising to minors, why a particular advertisement is directed to a specific minor,

~~including material information about how the minor's personal data is used to direct the advertisement to the minor; and why the minor is being targeted for a particular advertisement if the covered platform engages in targeted advertising, including material information about how the minor's personal data was used to target the advertisement; and~~

~~(C)~~ whether particular media displayed to the minor is an advertisement or marketing material, including disclosure of endorsements of products, services, or brands made for commercial consideration by other users of the platform.

(2) ~~GUIDANCE RULEMAKING~~—The Federal Trade Commission may issue guidance to assist covered platforms in complying with the requirements of this subsection, including guidance about the minimum level of information and labels for the disclosures required under paragraph (1). ~~rules pursuant to section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to implement this subsection, to establish templates or models of short form notices that include the minimum level of information and labels necessary for the disclosures required under paragraph (1)~~

(d) ~~RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND MINORS.~~—A covered platform shall provide to minors and parents clear, conspicuous, easy-to-understand, and comprehensive information in a prominent location, ~~which may include a link to a web page~~ regarding—

(1) its policies and practices with respect to ~~personal data and~~ safeguards for minors ~~required under section 103~~; and

(2) how to access the safeguards and tools required under section 103.

(e) ~~RESOURCES IN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES.~~—A covered platform shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the disclosures required by this section are made available in the same language, form, and manner as the covered platform provides any product or service used by minors and their parents.

## SEC. 105. TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), not less frequently than once a year, a covered platform shall issue a public report ~~identifying~~ **describing** the reasonably foreseeable risks of ~~material~~ harms to minors and ~~describing~~ **assessing** the prevention and mitigation measures taken to address such risk based on an independent, third-party audit conducted through reasonable inspection of the covered platform.

(b) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—The requirements of this section shall apply to a covered platform if—

- (1) for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged more than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States; and
- (2) the platform predominantly provides a community forum for user generated content and discussion, including sharing videos, images, games, audio files, discussion in a virtual setting, or other content, such as acting as a social media platform, virtual reality environment, or a social network service.

(c) CONTENT.—

(1) TRANSPARENCY.—The public reports required of a covered platform under this section shall include—

- (A) an assessment of the extent to which the platform is likely to be accessed by minors;
- (B) a description of the commercial interests of the covered platform in use by minors;
- (C) an accounting, based on the data held by the covered platform, of—
  - (i) the number of ~~users~~ **individuals** using the covered platform ~~that the platform knows to reasonably believed to~~ be minors in the United States, ~~disaggregated by the age ranges of 0-5, 6-9, 10-12, and 13-16;~~ and
  - (ii) the median and mean amounts of time spent on the platform by ~~users known to be~~ minors in the United States who have accessed the platform during the reporting year on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis, ~~disaggregated by the age ranges of 0-5, 6-9, 10-12, and 13-16;~~

(iii) the amount of content being accessed by ~~individuals~~ users that the platform knows to be minors in the United States that is in English, and the top 5 non-English languages used by ~~individuals~~ users accessing the platform in the United States;

(D) an accounting of total reports received regarding, and the prevalence (which can be based on scientifically valid sampling methods using the content available to the covered platform in the normal course of business) of content related to, the harms described in section 102(a), disaggregated by category of harm and language, including English and the top 5 non-English languages used by ~~individuals~~ users accessing the platform from the United States (as identified under subparagraph (C)(iii); and

(E) a description of any material breaches of parental tools or assurances regarding minors, representations regarding the use of the personal data of minors, representations regarding the use of the personal data of minors, and other matters regarding non-compliance with this subtitle.

(2) **REASONABLY FORESEEABLE RISK OF HARM TO MINORS**  
~~SYSTEMIC RISKS ASSESSMENT.~~—The public reports required of a covered platform under this section shall include—

(A) an assessment of the reasonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors posed by the covered platform, ~~including~~ specifically identifying ~~any other~~ those physical, mental, developmental, or financial harms ~~in addition to those~~ described in section 102(a);

~~(B) an assessment of how personalized recommendation systems and individual specific targeted advertising systems to minors can contribute to harms to minors;~~

~~(B)(C)~~ a description of whether and how the covered platform uses ~~system~~ design features that encourage or increase the frequency, ~~sustain, or extend use of the covered platform by the minor, such as automatic playing of media, rewards for~~ time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform, such as infinite scrolling, auto playing, rewards for time spent on the platform, notifications, and other design features that result in compulsive usage of the covered platform by the minor;

~~(C)(D)~~ a description of whether, how, and for what purpose the platform collects or processes categories of personal data that may cause reasonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors;

(D)~~(E)~~ an evaluation of the efficacy of safeguards for minors and parental tools under section 103, and any issues in delivering such safeguards and the associated parental tools; and

(E)~~(F)~~ an evaluation of any other relevant matters of public concern over risk of harms to minors associated with the use of the covered platform; and

(F)~~(G)~~ an assessment of differences in risk of harm to minors across different English and non-English languages and efficacy of safeguards in those languages

(3) MITIGATION.—The public reports required of a covered platform under this section shall include for English and the top 5 non-English languages used by ~~individuals~~ users accessing the platform from the United States (as identified under paragraph (2)(C)(iii)—

(A) a description of the safeguards and parental tools available to minors and parents on the covered platform;

(B) a description of interventions by the covered platform when it had or has reason to believe that harms to minors could occur;

(C) a description of the prevention and mitigation measures intended to be taken in response to the known and emerging risks identified in its assessment of reasonably foreseeable ~~system~~ risks of harms to minors, including steps taken to—

(i) prevent harms to minors, including adapting or removing ~~system~~ design features or addressing through parental ~~controls~~ tools;

(ii) provide the most protective level of control over privacy and safety by default; and

(iii) adapt recommendation systems to mitigate reasonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors ~~prioritize the best interests of users who are minors~~, as described in section 102(a);

(D) a description of internal processes for handling reports and automated detection mechanisms for harms to minors, including the rate, timeliness, and effectiveness of responses under the requirement of section 103(e);

(E) the status of implementing prevention and mitigation measures identified in prior assessments; and

(F) a description of the additional measures to be taken by the covered platform to address the circumvention of safeguards for minors and parental tools.

(d) REASONABLE INSPECTION.—In conducting an inspection of the **reasonably foreseeable systemic** risk of harm to minors under this section, an independent, third-party auditor shall—

(1) take into consideration the function of **personalized** recommendation systems;

(2) consult parents and youth experts, including youth and families with relevant past or current experience, public health and mental health nonprofit organizations, health and development organizations, and civil society with respect to the prevention of harms to minors;

(3) conduct research based on experiences of minors that use the covered platform, including reports under section 103(c) and information provided by law enforcement;

(4) take account of research, including research regarding system design features, marketing, or product integrity, industry best practices, or outside research; and

(5) consider indicia or inferences of age of users, in addition to any self-declared information about the age of **individuals, users; and**

**(6) take into consideration differences in risk of reasonably foreseeable harms and effectiveness of safeguards across English and non-English languages.**

(e) COOPERATION WITH INDEPENDENT, THIRD-PARTY AUDIT.—To facilitate the report required by subsection (c), a covered platform shall—

(1) provide or otherwise make available to the independent third-party conducting the audit all information and material in its possession, custody, or control that is relevant to the audit;

(2) provide or otherwise make available to the independent third-party conducting the audit access to all network, systems, and assets relevant to the audit; and

(3) disclose all relevant facts to the independent third-party conducting the audit, and not misrepresent in any manner, expressly or by implication, any relevant fact.

(f) **PRIVACY SAFEGUARDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL**—In issuing the public reports required under this section, a covered platform shall take steps to safeguard the privacy of its users, including ensuring that data is presented in a de-identified, aggregated format such that it is **not reasonably linkable** ~~reasonably impossible for the data to be linked back~~ to any **individual** user.

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION**—This section shall not be construed to require the disclosure of information that will lead to material vulnerabilities for the privacy of users or the security of a covered platform's service or create a significant risk of the violation of Federal or State law.

(3) **DEFINITION OF DE-IDENTIFIED.**—As used in this subsection, the term "de-identified" means data that does not identify and is not linked or reasonably linkable to a device that is linked or reasonably linkable to an individual, regardless of whether the information is aggregated.

(g) **LOCATION.**—The public reports required under this section should be posted by a covered platform on an easy to find location on a publicly-available website.



**SEC. 106. ~~INDEPENDENT~~ RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND MINORS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.— The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.— The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences.

~~(1)(3) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—~~The term “~~Assistant~~ Secretary” means the ~~Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information~~ Secretary of Health and Human Services.

~~(2) DE IDENTIFIED DATA.—~~The term “~~de identified data~~” means ~~information—d~~

~~(A) that does not identify and is not linked or reasonably linkable to an individual or an individual’s device; and~~

~~(B) with respect to which a covered platform or researcher takes reasonable technical and contractual measures to ensure that the information is not used to re-identify any individual or individual’s device.~~

~~(3) ELIGIBLE RESEARCHER.—~~

~~(A) IN GENERAL.—~~ The term “~~eligible researcher~~” means an individual or group of individuals affiliated with or employed by—

~~(i) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); or~~

~~(ii) a nonprofit organization described in section 501(e)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.~~

~~(B) LIMITATION.—~~ Such term shall not include an individual or group of individuals that is—

~~(i) not located in the United States; or~~

~~(ii) affiliated with the government of a foreign adversary (as defined in section 8(e)(2) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(e)(2))).~~

~~(4) INDEPENDENT RESEARCH.—~~ The term “~~independent research~~” means the ~~scientific or historical analysis of information that is performed for the primary purpose of advancing understanding, knowledge, and remedies regarding the harms to minors described in section 3(a).~~

~~(5) NONCOMMERCIAL PURPOSE.—~~ The term “~~noncommercial purpose~~” means a purpose that does not involve any direct or indirect use of data sets for the sale, resale, solicitation, rental, or lease of a service, or any use by

~~which the user expects a profit, including the sale to the general public of a publication containing independent research.~~

~~(6) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means the program established under subsection (b)(1).~~

~~(7) QUALIFIED RESEARCHER.—The term “qualified researcher” means an eligible researcher who is approved by the Assistant Secretary to conduct independent research regarding harms to minors under the Program.~~

(b) ~~INDEPENDENT RESEARCH Program Relating To Identified~~ ON SOCIAL MEDIA HARMS ~~To Minors~~.— Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academy, under which the National Academy shall conduct no less than 5 scientific, comprehensive studies and reports on the risk of harms to minors by use of social media and other online platforms including in English and non-English languages.

(c) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—In contracting with the National Academy, the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall seek to commission separate studies and reports, using the Commission's authority under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)), on the relationship between social media and other online platforms as defined in this ~~Act~~ subtitle on the following matters:

(1) Anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and suicidal behaviors.

(2) Substance use disorders and the use of narcotic drugs, tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol by minors.

(3) Sexual exploitation and abuse.

(4) Addiction-like use of social media and design factors that lead to unhealthy and harmful overuse of social media.

(d) ADDITIONAL STUDY.—Not earlier than 4 years after enactment, the Commission shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academy under which the National Academy shall conduct an additional study and report covering the matters described in subsection (c) for the purposes of providing additional information, considering new research, and other matters.

(e) CONTENT OF REPORTS.— The comprehensive studies and reports conducted pursuant to this section shall seek to evaluate impacts and advance understanding, knowledge, and remedies regarding the harms to minors posed by social media and other online platforms, and may include recommendations related to public policy.

(f) ACTIVE STUDIES.— If the National Academy is engaged in any active studies on the matters described in subsection (c) at the time that it enters into a contract with the Commission to conduct a study under this section, it may base the study to be conducted under this section on the active study, so long as it otherwise incorporates the requirements of this section.

(g) COLLABORATION.—In designing and conducting the studies under this section, the Commission, the Secretary, and the National Academy shall consult with the Surgeon General and the Kids Online Safety Council.

(h) ACCESS TO DATA.—

(1) FACT-FINDING AUTHORITY.—The Commission may issue orders under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)) to require covered platforms to provide reports, data, or answers in writing as ~~to gather and compile information and data~~ necessary to conduct the studies required under this section.

(2) SCOPE.—In exercising its authority under paragraph (1), the Commission may issue orders ~~under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b))~~ to no more than 5 covered platforms per study under this section.

(3) CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS.—Notwithstanding section 6(f) or 21 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46, 57b–2) ~~Pursuant to sub-sections (b) and (f) of section 6 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46)~~, the Commission shall enter in agreements with the National Academy to share appropriate information received from a covered platform pursuant to an order under such subsection (b) for a comprehensive study under this section in a confidential and secure manner, and to prohibit the disclosure or sharing of such information by the National Academy. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude the disclosure of any such information if authorized or required by any other law.

~~(1) ESTABLISHMENT.— Subject to paragraph (2), the Assistant Secretary shall establish a program, with public notice and an opportunity to comment, under which an eligible researcher may apply for, and a covered platform shall provide, access to data sets from the covered platform for the sole purpose of conducting independent research regarding the harms described in section 3(a).~~

~~(2) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.— The requirements of this subsection shall apply to a covered platform if—~~

~~(A) for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged more than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States; and~~

~~(B) the platform predominantly provides a community forum for user generated content and discussion, including sharing videos, images, games, audio files, discussion in a virtual setting, or other content, such as acting as a social media platform, virtual reality environment, or a social network service.~~

~~(3) PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, AND STANDARDS.— Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall establish for the program established under this subsection—~~

~~(A) definitions for data sets (related to harms described in section 3(a)) that qualify for disclosure to researchers under the program and standards of access for data sets to be provided under the program;~~

~~(B) a process by which an eligible researcher may submit an application described in paragraph (1);~~

~~(C) an appeals process for eligible researchers to appeal adverse decisions on applications described in paragraph (1) (including a decision to grant an appeal under paragraph (4)(C));~~

~~(D) procedures for implementation of the program, including methods for—~~

~~(i) participation by covered platforms;~~

~~(ii) evaluation of researcher proposals for alignment with program objectives and scoping; and~~

~~(iii) verification by the Assistant Secretary of the credentials of eligible researchers and processes for the application or disqualification to participate in the program;~~

~~(E) standards for privacy, security, and confidentiality required to participate in the program, including rules to ensure that the privacy and safety of users is not infringed by the program;~~

~~(F) a mechanism to allow individuals to control the use of their personal data under the program, including the ability to opt out of the program;~~

~~(G) standards for transparency regarding the operation and administration of the program; and~~

~~(H) rules to prevent requests for data sets that present financial conflicts of interest, including efforts by covered platforms to gain a competitive advantage by directly funding data access requests, the use of qualified researcher status for commercial gain, or efforts by covered platforms to obtain access to intellectual property that is otherwise protected by law.~~

~~(4) DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF COVERED PLATFORMS.—~~

~~(A) ACCESS TO DATA SETS.—~~

~~(i) IN GENERAL.— If the Assistant Secretary approves an application under paragraph (1) with respect to a covered platform, the~~

~~covered platform shall, in a timely manner, provide the qualified researcher with access to data sets necessary to conduct independent research described in that paragraph.~~

~~(ii) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a covered platform to provide access to data sets that are intellectual property protected by Federal law, trade secrets, or commercial or financial information.~~

~~(iii) FORM OF ACCESS.—A covered platform shall provide to a qualified researcher access to data sets under clause (i) through online databases, application programming interfaces, and data files as appropriate.~~

~~(B) NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT.—A covered platform may require, as a condition of access to the data sets of the covered platform, that a qualified researcher enter into a nondisclosure agreement restricting the release of data sets, provided that—~~

~~(i) the agreement does not restrict the publication or discussion regarding the qualified researcher's findings; and~~

~~(ii) the terms of the agreement allow the qualified researcher to provide the original agreement or a copy of the agreement to the Assistant Secretary.~~

~~(C) APPEAL.—~~

~~(i) AGENCY APPEAL.—A covered platform may appeal the granting of an application under paragraph (1) on the grounds that, and the Assistant Secretary shall grant such appeal if—~~

~~(I) the covered platform does not have access to the requested data sets or the requested data sets are not reasonably tailored to application; or~~

~~(II) providing access to the data sets will lead to material vulnerabilities for the privacy of users or the security of the covered platform's service or create a significant risk of the violation of Federal or state law.~~

~~(ii) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—A decision of the Assistant Secretary with respect to an appeal under clause (i) shall be considered to be a final agency action for purposes of judicial review under chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code.~~

~~(iii) ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF FULFILLMENT.—As part of an appeal under clause (i) that is made on the basis of subclause (II) of such clause, a covered platform shall propose one or more alternative data sets or means of accessing the requested data sets that are appropriate and sufficient to fulfill the purpose of the application, or shall explain why there are no alternative data sets or means of access which acceptably mitigate the applicable privacy, security, or legal concerns.~~

~~(D) TIMING.—A covered platform for which this provision applies shall participate in the program established under this subsection no later than two years after enactment of this Act.~~

~~(5) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—In order to be approved to access data sets from a covered platform, an eligible researcher shall, in the application submitted under paragraph (1)—~~

~~—(A) explain the purpose for which the independent research is undertaken;~~

~~(B) commit to conduct the research for noncommercial purposes;~~

~~(C) demonstrate a proven record of expertise on the proposed research topic and related research methodologies;~~

~~(D) if the eligible researcher is seeking access to data sets that include personal data, explain why the data sets are requested, and the means through which such data sets shall be accessed are the least sensitive and the most privacy protective means that will permit completion of the research and not compromise the privacy or safety of users; and~~

~~(E) commit to fulfill, and demonstrate a capacity to fulfill, the specific data security and confidentiality requirements corresponding to the application.~~

~~(6) PRIVACY AND DUTY OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—~~

~~(A) RESEARCHER CONFIDENTIALITY.—To protect user privacy, a qualified researcher shall keep data sets provided by a covered platform under the program confidential and secure to the specifications set forth under the program rules and the approved application.~~

~~(B) PLATFORM CONFIDENTIALITY.—A covered platform shall use reasonable measures to enable researcher access to data sets under the program in a secure and privacy protective manner, including through the de-identification of personal data or use of other privacy enhancing technologies.~~

~~(C) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize—~~

~~(i) a Federal agency to seek access to the data of a covered platform through the program; or~~

~~(ii) a qualified researcher to transfer or share any data sets provided by a covered platform under the program with a Federal agency.~~

~~(D) SECURITY.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed in a manner that would result in data sets from a covered platform being transferred to the Government of the People’s Republic of China or the government of another foreign adversary (as defined in section 8(e)(2) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(e)(2))).~~

~~(c) Safe Harbor For Collection Of Data For Independent Research Regarding Identified Harms To Minors.—If, in the course of conducting independent research for noncommercial purposes regarding harms described in section 3(a) (without regard to whether such research is conducted under the program), an eligible researcher collects or uses data from a covered platform in a manner that violates the terms of service of the platform, no cause of action based on such violation shall lie or be maintained in any court against such researcher unless the violation relates to the failure of the researcher to take reasonable measures to protect user privacy and security.~~

~~(d) Rulemaking.—The Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall promulgate rules in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, as necessary to implement this section.~~

## SEC. 107. MARKET RESEARCH.

(a) MARKET RESEARCH BY COVERED PLATFORMS.—The Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall issue guidance for covered platforms seeking to conduct market- and product-focused research on minors. Such guidance shall include—

(1) a standard consent form that provides minors and their parents a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand explanation of the scope and purpose of the research to be conducted, ~~and provides an opportunity for informed consent in the language in which the parent uses the cover platform~~ that is available in English and the top 5 non-English languages used in the United States;

(2) information on how to obtain informed consent from the parent of a minor prior to conducting such market- and product-focused research; and

~~(2)~~ (3) recommendations for research practices for studies that may include minors, disaggregated by the age ranges of 0-5, 6-9, 10-12, and 13-16.

(b) TIMING.—The Federal Trade Commission shall issue such guidance not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act. In doing so, they shall seek input from members of the public and the representatives of the Kids Online Safety Council established under section ~~12~~ 111.

## SEC. 108. AGE VERIFICATION STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The ~~Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology~~ ~~Secretary of Commerce~~, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, ~~and the Federal Trade Commission, and the Secretary of Commerce,~~ shall conduct a study evaluating the most technologically feasible methods and options for developing systems to verify age at the device or operating system level.

(b) CONTENTS.—Such study shall consider —

(1) the benefits of creating a device or operating system level age verification system;

(2) what information may need to be collected to create this type of age verification system;

(3) the accuracy of such systems and their impact or steps to improve accessibility, including for individuals with disabilities;

(4) how such a system or systems could verify age while mitigating risks to user privacy and data security and safeguarding minors' personal data, emphasizing minimizing the amount of data collected and processed by covered platforms and age verification providers for such a system;

(5) the technical feasibility, including the need for potential hardware and software changes, including for devices currently in commerce and owned by consumers.

(6) the impact of different age verification systems on competition, particularly the risk of different age verification systems creating barriers to entry for small companies.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the agencies described in subsection (a) shall submit a report containing the results of the study conducted under such subsection to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.



## SEC. 109. GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.— Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Kids Online Safety Council established under section ~~12~~ 111, shall issue guidance to—

(1) provide information and examples for covered platforms and auditors regarding ~~the following, with consideration given to differences across the English and non-English languages—~~

(A) identifying ~~design~~ features that ~~are used to increase, sustain, or extend use of~~ encourage or increase the frequency, time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform ~~by a minor~~;

(B) safeguarding minors against the possible misuse of parental tools;

(C) best practices in providing minors and parents the most protective level of control over privacy and safety;

(D) using indicia or inferences of age of users for assessing use of the covered platform by minors;

(E) methods for evaluating the efficacy of safeguards ~~set forth in this Act~~ title; and

(F) providing additional ~~control~~ parental tool options that allow parents to address the harms described in ~~section 3(a)~~ section 102(a); and

(2) outline conduct that does not have the purpose or substantial effect of subverting or impairing user autonomy, decision-making, or choice, or of causing, increasing, or encouraging compulsive usage for a minor, such as—

(A) de minimis user interface changes derived from testing consumer preferences, including different styles, layouts, or text, where such changes are not done with the purpose of weakening or disabling safeguards or parental ~~controls~~ tools;

(B) algorithms or data outputs outside the control of a covered platform; and

(C) establishing default settings that provide enhanced privacy protection to users or otherwise enhance their autonomy and decision-making ability.

(b) GUIDANCE ~~TO SCHOOLS ON KNOWLEDGE STANDARD.~~—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, ~~the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission and the Kids Online Safety Council established under section 12-section 111,~~ shall issue guidance ~~to assist to assist elementary and secondary schools in using the notice, safeguards and tools provided under this Act and providing information on online safety for students and teachers.~~

~~(c) GUIDANCE ON KNOWLEDGE STANDARD. Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall issue guidance to provide information, including best practices and examples, for covered platforms to understand the Commission's determination of how the Commission would determine whether a covered platform "had knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances" for purposes of this Act-subtitle.~~

(d) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—

(1) EFFECT OF GUIDANCE.— No guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission with respect to this ~~Act-subtitle~~ shall—

(A) confer any rights on any person, State, or locality; or

(B) operate to bind the Federal Trade Commission or any ~~court,~~ person, ~~State, or locality~~ to the approach recommended in such guidance.

(2) USE IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this ~~Act-subtitle,~~ the Federal Trade Commission ~~or a State Attorney general, as applicable—~~

(A) shall allege a violation of a provision of this ~~Act-subtitle;~~ and

(B) may not base such enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission with respect to this ~~Act-subtitle,~~ unless the practices are alleged to violate a provision of this ~~Act-subtitle.~~

For purposes of enforcing this subtitle, State attorneys general shall take into account any guidance issued by the Commission under subsection (b).

## SEC. 110. ENFORCEMENT.

### (a) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this ~~Act subtitle or a regulation promulgated under this Act~~ shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

### (2) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade Commission (referred to in this section as the “Commission”) shall enforce this ~~Act and any regulation promulgated under this Act subtitle~~ in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this ~~Act subtitle~~.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person that violates this ~~Act or a regulation promulgated under this Act subtitle~~ shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled to the privileges and immunities, provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this ~~Act subtitle~~ shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

### (b) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

#### (1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) CIVIL ACTIONS.—In any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that ~~an interest of the residents of that State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the engagement of any person in a practice that violates this Act or a regulation promulgated under this Act~~, a covered platform has violated or is violating section 103, 104, or 105, the State, as parens patriae, may bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in a district court of the United States or a State court of appropriate jurisdiction to—

- (i) enjoy ~~that practice~~ any practice that violates section 103, 104, or 105;

(ii) enforce compliance with ~~this Act~~ section 103, 104, or 105;

(iii) on behalf of residents of the State, obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation, each of which shall be distributed in accordance with State law; or

(iv) obtain such other relief as the court may consider to be appropriate.

(B) NOTICE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Before filing an action under subparagraph (A), the attorney general of the State involved shall provide to the Commission—

(I) written notice of that action; and

(II) a copy of the complaint for that action.

(ii) EXEMPTION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to the filing of an action by an attorney general of a State under this paragraph if the attorney general of the State determines that it is not feasible to provide the notice described in that clause before the filing of the action.

(II) NOTIFICATION.—In an action described in subclause (I), the attorney general of a State shall provide notice and a copy of the complaint to the Commission at the same time as the attorney general files the action.

(2) INTERVENTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—On receiving notice under paragraph (1)(B), the Commission shall have the right to intervene in the action that is the subject of the notice.

(B) EFFECT OF INTERVENTION.—If the Commission intervenes in an action under paragraph (1), it shall have the right—

(i) to be heard with respect to any matter that arises in that action;  
and

(ii) to file a petition for appeal.

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing any civil action under paragraph (1), nothing in this ~~Act~~ subtitle shall be construed to prevent an attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of that State to—

(A) conduct investigations;

(B) administer oaths or affirmations; or

(C) compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(4) ACTIONS BY THE COMMISSION.—In any case in which an action is instituted by or on behalf of the Commission for violation of this ~~Act or a regulation promulgated under this Act~~ subtitle, no State may, during the pendency of that action, institute a separate action under paragraph (1) against any defendant named in the complaint in the action instituted by or on behalf of the Commission for that violation.

(5) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

(A) VENUE.—Any action brought under paragraph (1) may be brought in—

(i) the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

(ii) a State court of competent jurisdiction.

(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under paragraph (1) in a district court of the United States, process may be served wherever defendant—

(i) is an inhabitant; or

(ii) may be found.

(6) LIMITATION.— A violation of section 102 shall not form the basis of liability in any action brought by the attorney general of a State of under a State law.

## SEC. 111. KIDS ONLINE SAFETY COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall establish and convene the Kids Online Safety Council for the purpose of providing advice on matters related to this ~~Act~~ subtitle.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—The Kids Online Safety Council shall include diverse participation from—

(1) academic experts, health professionals, and members of civil society with expertise in mental health, substance use disorders, and the prevention of harms to minors;

(2) representatives in academia and civil society with specific expertise in privacy, free expression, access to information, and civil liberties;

(3) parents and youth representation;

(4) representatives of covered platforms;

(5) representatives of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services;

(6) State attorneys general or their designees acting in State or local government; and

(7) educators; and

(8) representatives of communities of socially disadvantaged individuals (as defined in section 8 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637)).

(c) ACTIVITIES.—The matters to be addressed by the Kids Online Safety Council shall include—

(1) identifying emerging or current risks of harms to minors associated with online platforms;

(2) recommending measures and methods for assessing, preventing, and mitigating harms to minors online;

(3) recommending methods and themes for conducting research regarding online harms to minors, **including in English and non-English languages**; and

(4) recommending best practices and clear, consensus-based technical standards for transparency reports and audits, as required under this **Act-subtitle**, **including methods, criteria, and scope to promote overall accountability.**

**(d) NON-APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—**The Kids Online Safety Council shall not be subject to chapter 10 of title 5, **the** United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act”).

#### **SEC. 112. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Except as otherwise provided in this **Act-subtitle**, this **Act title-subtitle** shall take effect on the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

## SEC. 113. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER MATTERS.

(a) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.— Nothing in this ~~Act~~ subtitle shall be construed to—

(1) preempt section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g, commonly known as the “Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”) or other Federal or State laws governing student privacy;

(2) preempt the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) or any rule or regulation promulgated under such Act; ~~or~~

(3) authorize any action that would conflict with section 18(h) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(h)); ~~or~~

(4) expand or limit the scope of section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (commonly known as “section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996”) (47 U.S.C. 230).

(b) DETERMINATION OF "FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES" For purposes of enforcing this ~~Act~~ title, in making a determination as to whether covered platform has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a ~~specific~~ user is a minor, the Federal Trade Commission ~~or a State attorney general~~ shall rely on competent and reliable ~~empirical~~ evidence, taking into account the totality of the circumstances, including ~~consideration of whether the operator, using available technology, exercised reasonable care whether a reasonable and prudent person under the circumstances would have known that the user is a minor.~~

(c) PROTECTIONS FOR PRIVACY.—Nothing in this ~~Act~~ title subtitle, including a ~~determination described in subsection (b),~~ shall be construed to require—

(1) the affirmative collection of any personal data with respect to the age of users that a covered platform is not already collecting in the normal course of business; ~~or~~

(2) a covered platform to implement an age gating or age verification functionality.

~~(e)~~(d) COMPLIANCE.—Nothing in this ~~Act~~ title shall be construed to restrict a covered platform’s ability to—



(1) cooperate with law enforcement agencies regarding activity that the covered platform reasonably and in good faith believes may violate Federal, State, or local laws, rules, or regulations;

(2) comply with a lawful civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry ~~or any investigation,~~ subpoena, or summons by Federal, State, local, or other government authorities; or

(3) investigate, establish, exercise, respond to, or defend against legal claims.

(e) APPLICATION TO VIDEO STREAMING SERVICES.—A video streaming service shall be deemed to be in compliance with this Act ~~subtitle~~ if it predominantly consists of news, sports, entertainment, or other video programming content that is preselected by the provider and not user-generated, and—

- (1) ~~Any~~ chat, comment, or interactive functionality is provided incidental to, directly related to, or dependent on provision of such content;
- (2) if such video streaming service requires account owner registration and is not predominantly news or sports, the service ~~s~~ includes the capability—

(A) to limit a minor’s access to the service, which may utilize a system of age rating;

(B) to limit the automatic playing of on-demand content selected by a personalized recommendation system for an individual that the service knows is a minor;

~~(C) to provide an individual that the service knows is a minor with readily accessible and easy-to-use options to delete an account held by the minor and delete any personal data collected from the minor on the service, or, in the case of a service that allows a parent to create a profile for a minor, to allow a parent to delete the minor’s profile, and to delete any personal data collected from the minor on the service;~~

~~(D)~~ for a parent to manage a minor’s privacy and account settings, and restrict purchases and financial transactions by a minor, where applicable;

~~(E)~~ (D) to provide an electronic point of contact specific to matters described in this paragraph;

~~(F)~~ (E) to offer a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand notice of its policies and practices with respect to ~~personal data and~~ the capabilities described in this paragraph; and

~~(G)~~ (F) when providing on-demand content, to employ measures that safeguard against serving advertising for narcotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol directly to the account or profile of an individual that the service knows is a minor.

#### **SEC. 114. SEVERABILITY.**

~~If any provision of this Act title, or an amendment made by this Act, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall not be affected.~~

## **TITLE II Subtitle B – FILTER BUBBLE TRANSPARENCY**

### **Sec. ~~201~~120. DEFINITIONS**

~~(a) DEFINITIONS~~ — ~~In this section:~~

In this title:

(1) ALGORITHMIC RANKING SYSTEM.—The term “algorithmic ranking system” means a computational process, including one derived from algorithmic decision-making, machine learning, statistical analysis, or other data processing or artificial intelligence techniques, used to determine the ~~selection, order, relative prioritization, or relative prominence or manner of content from that~~ a set of information ~~that~~ is provided to a user on ~~a covered internet~~ an online platform, including the ranking of search results, the provision of content recommendations, the display of social media posts, or any other method of automated content selection.

(2) APPROXIMATE GEOLOCATION INFORMATION.—The term “approximate geolocation information” means information that identifies the location of an individual, but with a precision of less than 5 miles.

(3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(4) CONNECTED DEVICE.—The term “connected device” means an

electronic device that—

(A) is capable of connecting to the internet, either directly or indirectly through a network, to communicate information at the direction of an individual; ~~and~~

(B) has computer processing capabilities for collecting, sending, receiving, or analyzing data; and

(C) is primarily designed for or marketed to consumers.

(5) INPUT-TRANSPARENT ALGORITHM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “input-transparent algorithm” means an algorithmic ranking system that does not use the user-specific data of a user to determine the selection, order, relative prioritization, or relative prominence of information that is furnished to such user on ~~a covered internet~~ ~~an online~~ platform, unless the user-specific data is expressly provided to the platform by the user for such purpose.

(B) DATA EXPRESSLY PROVIDED FOR EXPRESS PURPOSE OF INTERACTION WITH TO THE PLATFORM.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), user-specific data that is provided by a user for the express purpose of determining the selection, order, relative prioritization, or relative prominence of information that is furnished to such user on ~~a covered internet~~ ~~an online~~ platform—

(i) shall include user-supplied search terms, filters, speech patterns (if provided for the purpose of enabling the platform to accept spoken input or selecting the language in which the user interacts with the platform), saved preferences, ~~the resumption of a previous search~~, and the ~~user's~~ current precise geographical location that is supplied by the user;

(ii) shall include the user’s current approximate geolocation information;

(iii) shall include data affirmatively ~~supplied~~ ~~submitted~~ to the platform by the user that expresses the user's desire to receive particular information, such as the social media profiles the user follows, the video channels the user subscribes to, or other ~~content~~ or sources of content on the platform the user has selected;

(iv) shall not include the history of the user's connected device, including the user's history of web searches and browsing, previous

geographical locations, physical activity, device interaction, and financial transactions; and

(iv) shall not include inferences about the user or the user's connected device, without regard to whether such inferences are based on data described in clause (i) or (iii).

~~(5)~~ (6) COVERED INTERNET ONLINE PLATFORM.—The term “online platform” means any public-facing website, online service, online application, or mobile application that predominantly provides a community forum for user-generated content, such as sharing videos, images, games, audio files, or other content, including a social media service, social network, or virtual reality environment.

~~(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered internet platform” means any public-facing website, internet application, or mobile application, including a social network site, video sharing service, search engine, or content aggregation service.~~

~~(B) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term shall not include a platform that—~~

~~(i) is wholly owned, controlled, and operated by a person that—~~

~~(I) for the most recent 6-month period, did not employ more than 500 employees;~~

~~(II) for the most recent 3-year period, averaged less than \$50,000,000 in annual gross receipts; and~~

~~(III) collects or processes on an annual basis the personal data of less than 1,000,000 individuals; or~~

~~(ii) is operated for the sole purpose of conducting research that is not made for profit either directly or indirectly.~~

(7) OPAQUE ALGORITHM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “opaque algorithm” means an algorithmic ranking system that determines the selection, order, relative prioritization, or relative prominence of information that is furnished to such user on a covered internet online platform based, in whole or part, on user-specific data that was not expressly provided by the user to the platform for such purpose.

(B) EXCEPTION FOR AGE-APPROPRIATE CONTENT FILTERS.—Such term shall not include an algorithmic ranking system used by a covered internet an online platform if—

(i) the only user-specific data (including inferences about the user) that the system uses is information relating to the age of the user; and

(ii) such information is only used to restrict a user's access to content on the basis that the individual is not old enough to access such content.

(8) **PRECISE GEOLOCATION INFORMATION.**—The term “precise geolocation information” means geolocation information that identifies an individual’s location to within a range of 5 miles or less.

~~(9) **SEARCH SYNDICATION CONTRACT; UPSTREAM PROVIDER; DOWNSTREAM PROVIDER.**—~~

~~(A) **SEARCH SYNDICATION CONTRACT.**—The term “search syndication contract” means a contract or subcontract for the sale, license, or other right to access an index of web pages on the internet for the purpose of operating an internet search engine.~~

~~(B) **UPSTREAM PROVIDER.**—The term “upstream provider” means, with respect to a search syndication contract, the person that grants access to an index of web pages on the internet to a downstream provider under the contract.~~

~~(C) **DOWNSTREAM PROVIDER.**—The term “downstream provider” means, with respect to a search syndication contract, the person that receives access to an index of web pages on the internet from an upstream provider under such contract.~~

~~(10)~~ (9) **USER-SPECIFIC DATA.**—The term “user-specific data” means information relating to an individual or a specific connected device that would not necessarily be true of every individual or device.

## **SEC. 202-121. REQUIREMENT TO ALLOW USERS TO SEE UNMANIPULATED CONTENT ON INTERNET PLATFORMS**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate ~~a covered internet~~ an online platform that uses an opaque algorithm unless the person complies with the requirements of ~~paragraph 2~~ subsection (b); ~~or~~

~~(B) for any upstream provider to grant access to an index of web pages on the internet under a search syndication contract that does not comply with the requirements of paragraph (3).~~

(b) OPAQUE ALGORITHM REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this subsection with respect to a person that operates ~~a covered internet~~ an online platform that uses an opaque algorithm are the following:

(A) The person provides ~~notice to~~ users of the platform ~~—~~ with the following notices:

(i) Notice that the platform uses an opaque algorithm that ~~makes inferences based on~~ uses user-specific data to select the content the user sees. Such notice shall be presented in a clear, ~~and~~ conspicuous manner on the platform whenever the user interacts with an opaque algorithm for the first time, and may be a one-time notice that can be dismissed by the user.

(ii) Notice, to be included in the terms and conditions of the ~~covered internet~~ online platform, in a clear, accessible, and easily comprehensible manner ~~to be updated no less frequently than once every 6 months that is to be updated whenever the online platform makes a material change to of—~~

(I) the most salient features, inputs, and parameters used by the algorithm;

(II) how any user-specific data used by the algorithm is collected or inferred about a user of the platform, and the categories of such data;

(III) any options that the ~~internet~~ online platform makes available for a user of the platform ~~to~~ to opt out or exercise options under ~~clause (ii)~~ subparagraph (B), modify the profile of the user or to influence the features, inputs, or parameters used by the algorithm; and

(IV) any quantities, such as time spent using a product or specific measures of engagement or social interaction, that the algorithm is designed to optimize, as well as a general description of the relative importance of each quantity for such ranking.

~~(B) The person makes available a version of the platform that uses an input-transparent algorithm and enables users to easily switch between the version of the platform that uses an opaque algorithm and the version of the platform that uses the input-transparent algorithm. The online platform enables users to easily switch between the opaque algorithm and an input-transparent algorithm in their use of the platform.~~

~~(B) NONAPPLICATION TO CERTAIN DOWNSTREAM PROVIDERS.— Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to an internet search engine if—~~

~~(A) the search engine is operated by a downstream provider with fewer~~

~~than 1,000 employees; and~~

~~(B) the search engine uses an index of web pages on the internet to which such provider received access under a search syndication contract.~~

~~(3) Search Syndication Contract Requirement.—The requirements of this paragraph with respect to a search syndication contract are that—~~

~~(A) as part of the contract, the upstream provider makes available to the downstream provider the same input-transparent algorithm used by the upstream provider for purposes of complying with subsection (2)(A)(ii); and~~

~~(B) the upstream provider does not impose any additional costs, degraded quality, reduced speed, or other constraint on the functioning of such algorithm when used by the downstream provider to operate an internet search engine relative to the performance of such algorithm when used by the upstream provider to operate an internet search engine.~~

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require an online platform to disclose any information, including data or algorithms—

(A) relating to a trade secret or other protected intellectual property;

(B) that is confidential business information; or

(C) that is privileged.

~~(4)~~ (3) PROHIBITION ON DIFFERENTIAL PRICING.— ~~A covered internet~~ An online platform shall not deny, charge different prices or rates for, or condition the provision of a service or product to ~~an individual~~ a user based on the ~~individual's~~ user's election to use a version of the platform that uses an input-transparent algorithm ~~in their use of the platform~~ as provided under paragraph ~~(2)(A)(ii)~~ (1)(B).

(c) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this ~~Act~~ section by an operator of ~~a covered internet~~ an online platform shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

~~(b)~~ (2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

~~(4)~~ (A) IN GENERAL.—~~Except as provided in subparagraph (C),~~ the Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this ~~Act~~ section in the same manner, by the same

means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

~~(2) (B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), a~~ Any person who violates this Act section shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

~~(3) COMMON CARRIERS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—~~  
Notwithstanding section 4, 5(a)(2), or 6 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 44, 45(a)(2), 46) or any jurisdictional limitation of the Commission, the Commission shall also enforce this Act, in the same manner provided in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this paragraph, with respect to—

~~(i) common carriers subject to the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) and Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto; and~~

~~(ii) organizations not organized to carry on business for their own profit or that of their members.~~

~~(D) (C) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—~~ Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

~~(3) RULE OF APPLICATION—Section 11 shall not apply to this section.~~

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION TO PRESERVE PERSONALIZED BLOCKS.— Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or prohibit a covered internet an online platform’s ability to, at the direction of an individual user or group of users, restrict another user from searching for, finding, accessing, or interacting with such user’s or group’s account, content, data, or online community.

#### **SEC. 203. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this title, or an amendment made by this Act title, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions of this Act title and the amendments made by this title shall not be affected.



## **TITLE III Subtitle C – Relationship to State Laws; Severability**

### **Sec. ~~301~~130. RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAWS**

The provisions of this ~~Act~~ title shall preempt any State law, rule, or regulation only to the extent that such State law, rule, or regulation conflicts with a provision of this Act. Nothing in this ~~Act~~ title shall be construed to prohibit a State from enacting a law, ~~rule~~, rule, or regulation that provides greater protection to minors than the protection provided by the provisions of this ~~Act~~ title.

### **SEC. 131. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this title, or an amendment made by this title, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions of this title and the amendments made by this title shall not be affected.

## TITLE II – CHILDREN AND TEEN’S ONLINE PRIVACY

### 15 USC 6501: Definitions

#### From Title 15-COMMERCE AND TRADE

#### CHAPTER 91-CHILDREN'S ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION

#### §6501. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Child

The term "child" means an individual under the age of 13.

(2) Operator

The term "operator"-

~~(A) means any person who operates a website located on the Internet or an online service and who collects or maintains personal information from or about the users of or visitors to such website or online service, or on whose behalf such information is collected or maintained, where such website or online service is operated for commercial purposes, including any person offering products or services for sale through that website or online service, involving commerce-~~

~~(i) among the several States or with 1 or more foreign nations;~~

~~(ii) in any territory of the United States or in the District of Columbia, or between any such territory and-~~

~~(I) another such territory; or~~

~~(II) any State or foreign nation; or~~

~~(III) between the District of Columbia and any State, territory, or foreign nation;~~

~~but~~

(A) means any person—

(i) who, for commercial purposes, in interstate or foreign commerce operates or provides a website on the internet, an online service, an online application, or a mobile application; and

(ii) who—

(I) collects or maintains, either directly or through a service provider, personal information from or about the users of that website, service, or application;

(II) allows another person to collect personal information directly from users of that website, service, or application (in which case, the operator is deemed to have collected the information); or

(III) allows users of that website, service, or application to publicly disclose personal information (in which case, the operator is deemed to have collected the information); and

(B) does not include any nonprofit entity that would otherwise be exempt from coverage ~~under section 45 of this title.~~ under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45).

(3) Commission

The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.

(4) Disclosure

The term "disclosure" means, with respect to personal information-

(A) the release of personal information collected from a child or teen ~~in identifiable form~~ by an operator for any purpose, except where ~~such information~~ the personal information is provided to a person other than the operator who—

(i) provides support for the internal operations of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application of the operator, excluding any activity relating to individual-specific advertising to children or teens; and ~~and does not disclose or use that information for any other purpose; and~~

(ii) does not disclose or use that personal information for any other purpose; and

(B) making personal information collected from a child or teen by a ~~website or online service~~ website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children or teens or with ~~actual knowledge~~ actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that such information was collected from a child or teen, publicly available in identifiable form, by any means including by a public posting, through the Internet, or through-

- (i) a home page of a website;
- (ii) a pen pal service;
- (iii) an electronic mail service;
- (iv) a message board; or
- (v) a chat room.

(5) Federal agency

The term "Federal agency" means an agency, as that term is defined in section 551(1) of title 5.

(6) Internet

The term "Internet" means collectively the myriad of computer and telecommunications facilities, including equipment and operating software, which comprise the interconnected world-wide network of networks that employ the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol, or any predecessor or successor protocols to such protocol, to communicate information of all kinds by wire or radio.

(7) Parent

The term "parent" includes a legal guardian.

~~(8) Personal information~~

~~The term "personal information" means individually identifiable information about an individual collected online, including—~~

- ~~(A) a first and last name;~~
- ~~(B) a home or other physical address including street name and name of a city or town;~~
- ~~(C) an e-mail address;~~
- ~~(D) a telephone number;~~
- ~~(E) a Social Security number;~~
- ~~(F) any other identifier that the Commission determines permits the physical or online contacting of a specific individual; or~~
- ~~(G) information concerning the child or the parents of that child that the website collects online from the child and combines with an identifier described in this paragraph.~~

(8) PERSONAL INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘personal information’ means individually identifiable information about an individual collected online, including—

- (i) a first and last name;
- (ii) a home or other physical address including street name and name of a city or town;
- (iii) an e-mail address;
- (iv) a telephone number;
- (v) a Social Security number;
- (vi) any other identifier that the Commission determines permits the physical or online contacting of a specific individual;
- (vii) a persistent identifier that can be used to recognize a specific child or teen over time and across different websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications, including but not limited to a customer number held in a cookie, an Internet Protocol (IP) address, a processor or device serial number, or unique

device identifier, but excluding an identifier that is used by an operator solely for providing support for the internal operations of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

(viii) a photograph, video, or audio file where such file contains a specific child's or teen's image or voice;

(ix) geolocation information;

(x) information generated from the measurement or technological processing of an individual's biological, physical, or physiological characteristics that is used to identify an individual, including—

(I) fingerprints;

(II) voice prints;

(III) iris or retina imagery scans;

(IV) facial templates;

(V) deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) information; or

(VI) gait; or

(xi) information linked or reasonably linkable to a child or teen or the parents of that child or teen (including any unique identifier) that an operator collects online from the child or teen and combines with an identifier described in this subparagraph.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'personal information' shall not include an audio file that contains a child's or teen's voice so long as the operator—

(i) does not request information via voice that would otherwise be considered personal information under this paragraph;

(ii) provides clear notice of its collection and use of the audio file and its deletion policy in its privacy policy;

(iii) only uses the voice within the audio file solely as a replacement for written words, to perform a task, or engage with a website, online service, online application, or mobile application, such as to perform a search or fulfill a verbal instruction or request; and

(iv) only maintains the audio file long enough to complete the stated purpose and then immediately deletes the audio file and does not make any other use of the audio file prior to deletion.

(C) SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNAL OPERATIONS OF A WEBSITE, ONLINE SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(vii), the term 'support for the internal operations of a website, online service, online application, or mobile

Application' means those activities necessary to—

(I) maintain or analyze the functioning of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

(II) perform network communications;

(III) authenticate users of, or personalize the content on, the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

(IV) serve contextual advertising, provided that any persistent identifier is only used as necessary for technical purposes to serve the contextual advertisement, or cap the frequency of advertising;

(V) protect the security or integrity of the user, website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

(VI) ensure legal or regulatory compliance, or

(VII) fulfill a request of a child or teen as permitted by subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 1303(b)(2).

(ii) CONDITION.—Except as specifically permitted under clause (i), information collected for the activities listed in clause (i) cannot be used or disclosed to contact a specific individual, including through individual-specific advertising to children or teens, to amass a profile on a specific individual, in connection with processes that encourage or prompt use of a website or online service, or for any other purpose;

(9) Verifiable ~~parental~~ consent

The term "verifiable ~~parental~~ consent" means any reasonable effort (taking into consideration available technology), including a request for authorization for future collection, use, and disclosure described in the notice, to ensure that ~~a parent of a child receives notice of the operator's personal information collection, use, and disclosure practices, and authorizes the collection, use, and disclosure, as applicable, of personal information and the subsequent use of that information before that information is collected from that child.~~, in the case of a child, a parent of the child, or, in the case of a teen, the teen—

(A) receives direct notice of the personal information collection, use, and disclosure practices of the operator; and

(B) before the personal information of the child or teen is collected, freely and unambiguously authorizes—

(i) the collection, use, and disclosure, as applicable, of that personal information;

and

(ii) any subsequent use of that personal information.

- (10) Website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children  
~~Website or online service directed to children~~

(A) In general

The term "website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children" means-

- (i) a commercial website or online service that is targeted , or mobile application directed to children; or
- (ii) that portion of a commercial website or online service, online application, or mobile application that is targeted to children.

(B) Limitation

A commercial ~~website or online service~~ website, online service, online application, or mobile application , or a portion of a commercial ~~website or online service~~ website, online service, online application, or mobile application, shall not be deemed directed to children solely for referring or linking to a commercial ~~website or online service~~ website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children by using information location tools, including a directory, index, reference, pointer, or hypertext link.

(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

In considering whether a website, online service, online application, or mobile application, or portion thereof, is directed to children, the Commission shall apply a totality of circumstances test and will also consider competent and reliable empirical evidence regarding audience composition and evidence regarding the intended audience of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application.

(11) Person

The term "person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, trust, estate, cooperative, association, or other entity.

(12) Online contact information

The term "online contact information" means an e-mail address or another substantially similar identifier that permits direct contact with a person online.

(13) CONNECTED DEVICE.—The term ‘connected device’ means a device that is capable of connecting to the internet, directly or indirectly, or to another connected device.

(14) ONLINE APPLICATION.—The term ‘online application’—

- (A) means an internet-connected software program; and
- (B) includes a service or application offered via a connected device.

(15) MOBILE APPLICATION.—The term ‘mobile application’—

(A) means a software program that runs on the operating system of—

(i) a cellular telephone;

(ii) a tablet computer; or

(iii) a similar portable computing device that transmits data over a wireless connection; and

(B) includes a service or application offered via a connected device.

(16) GEOLOCATION INFORMATION.—The term ‘geolocation information’ means information sufficient to identify a street name and name of a city or town.

(17) TEEN.—The term ‘teen’ means an individual ~~over the age of 12~~ who has attained age 13 and under the age of 17.

(18) INDIVIDUAL-SPECIFIC ADVERTISING TO CHILDREN OR TEENS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘individual-specific advertising to children or teens’ means advertising or any other effort to market a product or service that is directed to a specific child or teen or a connected device that is linked or reasonably linkable to a child or teen based on—

(i) the personal information from—

(I) the child or teen; or

(II) a group of children or teens who are similar in sex, age, household income level, race, or ethnicity to the specific child or teen to whom the product or service is marketed;

(ii) profiling of a child or teen or group of children or teens; or

(iii) a unique identifier of the connected device.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘individual-specific advertising to children or teens’ shall not include—

(i) advertising or marketing to an individual or the device of an individual in response to the individual’s specific request for information or feedback, such as a child’s or teen’s current search query;

(ii) contextual advertising, such as when an advertisement is displayed based on the content of the website, online service, online application, mobile application, or connected device in which the advertisement appears and does not vary based on personal information related to the viewer; or

(iii) processing personal information solely for measuring or reporting advertising or content performance, reach, or frequency, including independent measurement.

(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit an operator with actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is under the age of 17 from delivering advertising or marketing that is age-appropriate and intended for a child or teen audience, so long as the



operator does not use any personal information other than whether the user is under the age of 17.

15 U.S. Code § 6502 - Regulation of unfair and deceptive acts and practices in connection with collection and use of personal information from and about children on the Internet

**Sec. 201.(a) ~~ACTS PROHIBITED~~ ONLINE COLLECTION, USE, DISCLOSURE, AND DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS.**

(1) IN GENERAL.—It is unlawful for an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children, or for any operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application with ~~any operator that has~~ actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen – ~~that it is collecting personal information from a child, to collect personal information from a child in a manner that violates the regulations prescribed under subsection (b).~~

(A) to collect personal information from a child or teen in a manner that violates the regulations prescribed under subsection (b);

(B) except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 1302(18), to collect, use, disclose to third parties, or maintain personal information of a child or teen for purposes of individual-specific advertising to children or teens (or to allow another person to collect, use, disclose, or maintain such information for such purpose);

(C) to collect the personal information of a child or teen except when the collection of the personal information is—

(i) consistent with the context of a particular **transaction** or service or the relationship of the child or teen with the operator, including collection necessary to fulfill a transaction or provide a product or service requested by the child or teen; or

(ii) required or specifically authorized by Federal or State law; or

(D) to store or transfer the personal information of a child or teen outside of the United States unless the operator provides direct notice to the parent of the child, in the case of a child, or to the teen, in the case of a teen, that the child's or teen's personal information is being stored or transferred outside of the United States; or

(E) to retain the personal information of a child or teen for longer than is reasonably necessary to fulfill a transaction or provide a service requested by the child or teen except as required or specifically authorized by Federal or State law.

(2) DISCLOSURE TO ~~PARENT~~ PARENT OR TEEN PROTECTED

~~Notwithstanding paragraph (1)~~ Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A), neither an operator of such a website or online service nor the operator's agent shall be held to be liable under any Federal or State law for any disclosure made in good faith and following reasonable procedures in responding to a request for disclosure of personal information under ~~subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii) to the parent of a child~~ subsection (b)(1)(B)(iv) to the parent of a child or under subsection (b)(1)(C)(iv) to a teen.

(b)REGULATIONS

(1)IN GENERAL

Not later than 1 year after October 21, 1998, the Commission shall promulgate under section 553 of title 5 regulations that—

(A) require the operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children or that has actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen ~~any website or online service directed to children that collects personal information from children or the operator of a website or online service that has actual knowledge that it is collecting personal information from a child—~~

(i)to provide ~~notice on the website~~ clear and conspicuous notice on the website of what information is collected from children or teens by the operator, how the operator uses such information, ~~and the operator's~~ the operator's disclosure practices for such information; the rights and opportunities available to the parent of the child or teen under subparagraphs (B) and (C), and the procedures or mechanisms the operator uses to ensure that personal information is not collected from children or teens except in accordance with the regulations promulgated under this paragraph;

(ii)to obtain verifiable ~~parental~~ consent for the collection, use, or disclosure of personal information from children or teens; and

(iii) to obtain verifiable consent from a parent of a child or from a teen before using or disclosing personal information of the child or teen for any purpose that is a material change from the original purposes and disclosure practices specified to the parent of the child or the teen under clause (i);

(B) Require the operator to provide, upon request of a parent under this subparagraph whose child has provided personal information to that ~~website or online service~~ operator, upon proper identification of that parent, to such parent—

(i) a description of the specific types of personal information collected from the child by that operator and the method by which the operator obtained the

personal information, and the purposes for which the operator collects, uses, discloses, and retains the personal information;

(ii) the opportunity at any time to delete personal information collected from the child or content or information submitted by the child to a website, online service, online application, or mobile application and to refuse to permit the operator's further use or maintenance in retrievable form, or future online collection, of personal information from that child; ~~and~~

(iii) the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the personal information and, if the parent of the child establishes the inaccuracy of the personal information, to have the inaccurate personal information corrected;

~~(iv) notwithstanding any other provision of law, a means that is reasonable under the circumstances for the parent to obtain any personal information collected from that child~~

(iv) to the parent of a child or under subsection (b)(1)(C)(iv) to a teen, if such information is available to the operator at the time the parent makes the request;

(C) require the operator to provide, upon the request of a teen under this subparagraph who has provided personal information to the operator, upon proper identification of that teen—

(i) a description of the specific types of personal information collected from the teen by the operator, the method by which the operator obtained the personal information, and the purposes for which the operator collects, uses, discloses, and retains the personal information;

(ii) the opportunity at any time to delete personal information collected from the teen or content or information submitted by the teen to a website, online service, online application, or mobile application and to refuse to permit the operator's further use or maintenance in retrievable form, or online collection, of personal information from the teen;

(iii) the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the personal information and, if the teen establishes the inaccuracy of the personal information, to have the inaccurate personal information corrected; and

(iv) a means that is reasonable under the circumstances for the teen to obtain any personal information collected from the teen, if such information is available to the operator at the time the teen makes the request;

(D) prohibit conditioning a ~~child's~~ a child's or teen's participation in a game, the offering of a prize, or another activity on the ~~child's~~ child's or teen's disclosing more

personal information than is reasonably necessary to participate in such activity;  
and

~~(DE)~~ require the operator to establish, implement, and maintain reasonable security practices to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of personal information of children or teens collected by the operator, and to protect such personal information against unauthorized access. ~~of such a website or online service to establish and maintain reasonable procedures to protect the confidentiality, security, and integrity of personal information collected from children.~~

(2) WHEN CONSENT NOT REQUIRED

The regulations shall provide that verifiable ~~parental~~ consent under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) is not required in the case of—

- (A) online contact information collected from a child or teen that is used only to respond directly on a one-time basis to a specific request from the child or teen and is not used to recontact the child or teen or to contact another child or teen and is not maintained in retrievable form by the operator;
- (B) a request for the name or online contact information of a parent ~~child or teen~~ that is used for the sole purpose of obtaining ~~parental-verifiable~~ consent or providing notice under this section and where such information is not maintained in retrievable form by the operator if parental consent is not obtained after a reasonable time;
- (C) Online contact information collected from a child that is used only to respond more than once directly to a specific request from the child or teen and is not used to recontact the child or teen beyond the scope of that request—
  - (i) if, before any additional response after the initial response to the child or teen, the operator uses reasonable efforts to provide a parent or teen as applicable notice of the online contact information collected from the child or teen, the purposes for which it is to be used, and an opportunity for the parent or teen as applicable to request that the operator make no further use of the information and that it not be maintained in retrievable form; or
  - (ii) without notice to the parent or teen, as applicable, in such circumstances as the Commission may determine are appropriate, taking into consideration the benefits to the child or teen of access to information and services, and risks to the security and privacy of the child or teen, in regulations promulgated under this subsection;

(D) the name of the child or teen and online contact information (to the extent reasonably necessary to protect the safety of a child or teen participant on the site)—

(i) used only for the purpose of protecting such safety;

(ii) not used to recontact the child or teen or for any other purpose;  
and

(iii) not disclosed on the site,

if the operator uses reasonable efforts to provide a parent or teen, as applicable notice of the name and online contact information collected from the child or teen, the purposes for which it is to be used, and an opportunity for the parent or teen, as applicable to request that the operator make no further use of the information and that it not be maintained in retrievable form; or

(E) the collection, use, or dissemination of such information by the operator of such a website or online service necessary—

(i) to protect the security or integrity of its website;

(ii) to take precautions against liability;

(iii) to respond to judicial process; or

(iv) to the extent permitted under other provisions of law, to provide information to law enforcement agencies or for an investigation on a matter related to public safety.

### (3) APPLICATION TO OPERATORS ACTING UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES OR INSTITUTIONS.—The regulations may

provide that verifiable consent under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) is not required for an operator that is acting under a written agreement with an educational agency or institution (as defined in section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (commonly known as the ‘Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’) (20 U.S.C. 1232g(a)(3)) that, at a minimum, requires the—

(A) operator to—

(i) limit its collection, use, and disclosure of the personal information from a child or teen to solely educational purposes and for no other commercial purposes;

(ii) provide the educational agency or institution with a notice of the specific types of personal information the operator will collect from the child or teen, the method by which the operator will obtain the personal

information, and the purposes for which the operator will collect, use, disclose, and retain the personal information;

(iii) provide the educational agency or institution with a link to the operator's online notice of information practices as required under subsection (b)(1)(A)(i); and

(iv) provide the educational agency or institution, upon request, with a means to review the personal information collected from a child or teen, to prevent further use or maintenance or future collection of personal information from a child or teen, and to delete personal information collected from a child or teen or content or information submitted by a child or teen to the operator's website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

(B) representative of the educational agency or institution to acknowledge and agree that they have authority to authorize the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information from children or teens on behalf of the educational agency or institution, along with such authorization, their name, and title at the educational agency or institution; and

(C) educational agency or institution to—

(i) provide on its website a notice that identifies the operator with which it has entered into a written agreement under this subsection and provides a link to the operator's online notice of information practices as required under paragraph (1)(A)(i);

(ii) provide the operator's notice regarding its information practices, as required under subparagraph (A)(ii), upon request, to a parent, in the case of a child, or a parent or teen, in the case of a teen; and

(iii) upon the request of a parent, in the case of a child, or a parent or teen, in the case of a teen, request the operator provide a means to review the personal information from the child or teen and provide the parent, in the case of a child, or parent or teen, in the case of the teen, a means to review the personal information.

#### (4) TERMINATION OF SERVICE

The regulations shall permit the operator of a website, ~~or an~~ online service, online application, or mobile application to terminate service provided to a child whose parent has refused, or a teen has refused, under the regulations prescribed under paragraph (1)(B)(ii), and (1)(C)(ii), to permit the operator's further use or maintenance in retrievable form, or future online collection of, personal information from that child or teen.

(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—The regulations shall prohibit an operator from discontinuing service provided to a child or teen on the basis of a request by the parent of the child or by the teen, under the regulations prescribed under subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), respectively, to delete personal information collected from the child or teen, to the extent that the operator is capable of providing such service without such information.

(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A request made pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1) to delete or correct personal information of a child or teen shall not be construed—

(A) to limit the authority of a law enforcement agency to obtain any content or information from an operator pursuant to a lawfully executed warrant or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

(B) to require an operator or third party delete or correct information that—

(i) any other provision of Federal or State law requires the operator or third party to maintain; or

(ii) was submitted to the website, online service, online application, or mobile application of the operator by any person other than the user who is attempting to erase or otherwise eliminate the content or information, including content or information submitted by the user that was republished or resubmitted by another person; or

(C) to prohibit an operator from—

(i) retaining a record of the deletion request and the minimum information necessary for the purposes of ensuring compliance with a request made pursuant to sub-paragraph (B) or (C);

(ii) preventing, detecting, protecting against, or responding to security incidents, identity theft, or fraud, or reporting those responsible for such actions;

(iii) protecting the integrity or security of a website, online service, online application or mobile application; or

(iv) ensuring that the child's or teen's information remains deleted.

(7) COMMON VERIFIABLE CONSENT MECHANISM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) FEASIBILITY OF MECHANISM.— The Commission shall assess the feasibility, with notice and public comment, of allowing operators the option to use a common verifiable consent mechanism that fully meets the requirements of this title.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The feasibility assessment described in clause (i) shall consider whether a single operator could use a common verifiable consent mechanism to obtain verifiable consent, as required under this title, from a parent of a child or from a teen on behalf of multiple, listed operators that provide a joint or related service.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Commission shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives with the findings of the assessment required by subparagraph (A).

(C) REGULATIONS.—If the Commission finds that the use of a common verifiable consent mechanism is feasible and would meet the requirements of this title, the Commission shall issue regulations to permit the use of a common verifiable consent mechanism in accordance with the findings outlined in such report.;

(c) ENFORCEMENT

Subject to sections 6503 and 6505 of this title, a violation of subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of subsection (a)(1), or of a regulation prescribed under subsection (b), ~~a regulation prescribed under subsection (a)~~ shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 57a(a)(1)(B) of this title.

(d) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW.—The provisions of this title shall preempt any State law, rule, or regulation only to the extent that such State law, rule, or regulation conflicts with a provision of this title. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit any State from enacting a law, rule, or regulation that provides greater protection to children or teens than the provisions of this title.

~~(d) INCONSISTENT STATE LAW~~

~~No State or local government may impose any liability for commercial activities or actions by operators in interstate or foreign commerce in connection with an activity or action described in this chapter that is inconsistent with the treatment of those activities or actions under this section.~~



(a) GUIDELINES

An operator may satisfy the requirements of regulations issued under section 6502(b) of this title by following a set of self-regulatory guidelines, issued by representatives of the marketing or online industries, or by other persons, approved under subsection (b).

(b) INCENTIVES

(1) SELF-REGULATORY INCENTIVES

In prescribing regulations under section 6502 of this title, the Commission shall provide incentives for self-regulation by operators to implement the protections afforded children and teens under the regulatory requirements described in subsection (b) of that section.

(2) DEEMED COMPLIANCE

Such incentives shall include provisions for ensuring that a person will be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of the regulations under section 6502 of this title if that person complies with guidelines that, after notice and comment, are approved by the Commission upon making a determination that the guidelines meet the requirements of the regulations issued under section 6502 of this title.

(3) EXPEDITED RESPONSE TO REQUESTS

The Commission shall act upon requests for safe harbor treatment within 180 days of the filing of the request, and shall set forth in writing its conclusions with regard to such requests.

(c) APPEALS

Final action by the Commission on a request for approval of guidelines, or the failure to act within 180 days on a request for approval of guidelines, submitted under subsection (b) may be appealed to a district court of the United States of appropriate jurisdiction as provided for in section 706 of title 5.

(d) PUBLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the restrictions described in paragraph (2), the Commission shall publish on the internet website of the Commission any report or documentation required by regulation to be submitted to the Commission to carry out this section.

(2) RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLICATION.—The restrictions described in section 6(f) and section 21 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. (f), 57b–2) applicable to the disclosure of information obtained by the Commission shall apply in same manner to the disclosure under this subsection of information obtained by the Commission from a report or documentation described in paragraph (1).

## 15 U.S. Code § 6504 - Actions by States

### (a) IN GENERAL

#### (1) CIVIL ACTIONS

In any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of that State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the engagement of any person in a practice that violates [section 1303\(a\)\(1\)](#) or any regulation of the Commission prescribed under section 6502(b) of this title, the State, as *parens patriae*, may bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in a district court of the United States of appropriate jurisdiction to—

- (A) enjoin that practice;
- (B) enforce compliance with [section 1303\(a\)\(1\)](#) or the regulation;
- (C) obtain damage, restitution, or other compensation on behalf of residents of the State; or
- (D) obtain such other relief as the court may consider to be appropriate.

#### (2) NOTICE

##### (A) In general

Before filing an action under paragraph (1), the attorney general of the State involved shall provide to the Commission—

- (i) written notice of that action; and
- (ii) a copy of the complaint for that action.

##### (B) Exemption

###### (i) In general

Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to the filing of an action by an attorney general of a State under this subsection, if the attorney general determines that it is not feasible to provide the notice described in that subparagraph before the filing of the action.

###### (ii) Notification

In an action described in clause (i), the attorney general of a State shall provide notice and a copy of the complaint to the [Commission](#) at the same time as the attorney general files the action.

### (b) INTERVENTION

(1) IN GENERAL

On receiving notice under subsection (a)(2), the **Commission** shall have the right to intervene in the action that is the subject of the notice.

(2) EFFECT OF INTERVENTION

If the **Commission** intervenes in an action under subsection (a), it shall have the right—

(A) to be heard with respect to any matter that arises in that action; and

(B) to file a petition for appeal.

(3) AMICUS CURIAE

Upon application to the court, a **person** whose self-regulatory guidelines have been approved by the **Commission** and are relied upon as a defense by any defendant to a proceeding under this section may file amicus curiae in that proceeding.

(c) CONSTRUCTION

For purposes of bringing any civil action under subsection (a), nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent an attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of that State to—

(1) conduct investigations;

(2) administer oaths or affirmations; or

(3) compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(d) ACTIONS BY COMMISSION

In any case in which an action is instituted by or on behalf of the **Commission** for violation of **section 1303(a)(1)** or any regulation prescribed under **section 6502** of this title, no State may, during the pendency of that action, institute an action under subsection (a) against any defendant named in the complaint in that action for violation of **section 1303(a)(1)** that regulation.

(e) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS

(1) VENUE

Any action brought under subsection (a) may be brought in the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under **section 1391 of title 28**.

(2) SERVICE OF PROCESS

In an action brought under subsection (a), process may be served in any district in which the defendant—

(A) is an inhabitant; or

(B) may be found.

**(f) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER AN OPERATOR HAS KNOWLEDGE FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES.—**

**(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—**

For purposes of enforcing this title or a regulation promulgated under this title, in making a determination as to whether an operator has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a specific user is a child or teen, the Commission or State attorneys general shall rely on competent and reliable evidence, taking into account the totality of the circumstances, including whether a reasonable and prudent person under the circumstances would have known that the user is a child or teen. Nothing in this title, including a determination described in the preceding sentence, shall be construed to require an operator to—

(A) affirmatively collect any personal information with respect to the age of a child or teen that an operator is not already collecting in the normal course of business; or

(B) implement an age gating or age verification functionality.

**(2) COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—**

(A) **IN GENERAL.—**Within 180 days of enactment, the Commission shall issue guidance to provide information, including best practices and examples for operators to understand the Commission’s determination of whether an operator has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen.

(B) **LIMITATION.—**No guidance issued by the Commission with respect to this title shall confer any rights on any person, State, or locality, nor shall operate to bind the Commission or any person to the approach recommended in such guidance. In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this title, the Commission or State attorney general, as applicable, shall allege a specific violation of a provision of this title. The Commission or State attorney general, as applicable, may not base an enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with any such guidance, unless the practices allegedly violate this title.

(g) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Any regulations issued under this title shall include a description and analysis of the impact of proposed and final Rules on small entities per the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

### 15 U.S. Code § 6505 - Administration and applicability

#### (a) IN GENERAL

Except as otherwise provided, this chapter shall be enforced by the Commission under the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

#### (b) PROVISIONS

Compliance with the requirements imposed under this chapter shall be enforced under—

- (1) section 8 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1818), ~~in the case of—~~
  - (A) ~~national banks, and Federal branches and Federal agencies of foreign banks, by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency;~~
  - (B) ~~member banks of the Federal Reserve System (other than national banks), branches and agencies of foreign banks (other than Federal branches, Federal agencies, and insured State branches of foreign banks), commercial lending companies owned or controlled by foreign banks, and organizations operating under section 25 or 25(a) [1] of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 601 et seq. and 611 et. seq.), by the Board; and~~
  - (C) ~~banks insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (other than members of the Federal Reserve System) and insured State branches of foreign banks, by the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;~~ by the appropriate Federal banking agency, with respect to any insured depository institution (as those terms are defined in section 3 of that Act (12 U.S.C. 1813));
- ~~(2) section 8 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1818), by the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, in the case of a savings association the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;~~
- ~~(3) (2)~~ the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) by the National Credit Union Administration Board with respect to any Federal credit union;
- ~~(4) (3)~~ part A of subtitle VII of title 49 by the Secretary of Transportation with respect to any air carrier or foreign air carrier subject to that part;
- ~~(5) (4)~~ the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et. seq.) (except as provided in section 406 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 226, 227)), by the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to any activities subject to that Act; and

~~(6)~~ (5) the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) by the Farm Credit Administration with respect to any Federal land bank, Federal land bank association, Federal intermediate credit bank, or production credit association.

(c) EXERCISE OF CERTAIN POWERS

For the purpose of the exercise by any agency referred to in subsection (a) [2] of its powers under any Act referred to in that subsection, a violation of any requirement imposed under this chapter shall be deemed to be a violation of a requirement imposed under that Act. In addition to its powers under any provision of law specifically referred to in subsection (a),[2] each of the agencies referred to in that subsection may exercise, for the purpose of enforcing compliance with any requirement imposed under this chapter, any other authority conferred on it by law.

(d) ACTIONS BY COMMISSION

The Commission shall prevent any person from violating [section 1303\(a\)\(1\)](#) or a rule of the Commission under section 6502 of this title in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this chapter. Any entity that violates ~~such rule~~ [section 1303\(a\)\(1\) or a rule of the Commission under section 1303](#) shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, power, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act were incorporated into and made a part of this chapter.

(e) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS

Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provisions of law.

[\(f\) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER AN OPERATOR HAS KNOWLEDGE FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES.—](#)

[\(1\) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—](#)For purposes of enforcing this title or a regulation promulgated under this title, in making a determination as to whether an operator has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a specific user is a child or teen, the Commission or State attorneys general shall rely on competent and reliable evidence, taking into account the totality of the circumstances, including whether a reasonable and prudent person under the circumstances would have known that the user is a child or teen. Nothing in this title, including a determination described in the preceding sentence, shall be construed to require an operator to—

(A) affirmatively collect any personal information with respect to the age of a child or teen that an operator is not already collecting in the normal course of business; or

(B) implement an age gating or age verification functionality.

(2) COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days of enactment, the Commission shall issue guidance to provide information, including best practices and examples for operators to understand the Commission’s determination of whether an operator has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen.

(B) LIMITATION.—No guidance issued by the Commission with respect to this title shall confer any rights on any person, State, or locality, nor shall operate to bind the Commission or any person to the approach recommended in such guidance. In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this title, the Commission or State attorney general, as applicable, shall allege a specific violation of a provision of this title. The Commission or State attorney general, as applicable, may not base an enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with any such guidance, unless the practices allegedly violate this title. For purposes of enforcing this title or a regulation promulgated under this title, State attorneys general shall take into account any guidance issued by the Commission under subparagraph (A).

(g) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Any regulations issued under this title shall include a description and analysis of the impact of proposed and final Rules on small entities per the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

**15 U.S. Code § 6506 - Review**

Not later than 5 years after the effective date of the regulations initially issued under section 6502 of this title, the Commission shall—

(1) review the implementation of this chapter, including the effect of the implementation of this chapter on practices relating to the collection and disclosure of information relating to children, children’s ability to obtain access to information of their choice online, and on the availability of websites directed to children; and

(2) prepare and submit to Congress a report on the results of the review under paragraph (1).

## SEC. 202. STUDY AND REPORTS OF MOBILE AND ONLINE APPLICATION OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) OVERSIGHT REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the processes of platforms that offer mobile and online applications for ensuring that, of those applications that are websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications directed to children, the applications operate in accordance with—

(1) this ~~Act~~-title, the amendments made by this ~~Act~~-title, and rules promulgated under this ~~Act~~-title; and

(2) rules promulgated by the Commission under section 18 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a) relating to unfair or deceptive acts or practices in marketing.

(b) ENFORCEMENT REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Federal Trade Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that addresses, at a minimum—

(1) the number of actions brought by the Commission during the reporting year to enforce the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501) (referred to in this subsection as the “Act”) and the outcome of each such action;

(2) the total number of investigations or inquiries into potential violations of the Act; during the reporting year;

(3) the total number of open investigations or inquiries into potential violations of the Act as of the time the report is submitted;

(4) the number and nature of complaints received by the Commission relating to an allegation of a violation of the Act during the reporting year;

and

(5) policy or legislative recommendations to strengthen online protections for children and teens.



**SEC. 203. GAO STUDY.**

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study on the privacy of teens who use financial technology products. Such study shall—

- (1) identify the type of financial technology products that teens are using;
- (2) identify the potential risks to teens’ privacy from using such financial technology products; and
- (3) determine whether existing laws are sufficient to address such risks to teens’ privacy.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

**SEC. 204. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this ~~Act~~-title, or an amendment made by this ~~Act~~-title, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions of this ~~Act~~-title and the amendments made by this ~~Act~~-title shall not be affected.